
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS'**

**February 27, 2007
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Transportation Conformity Working Group held its meeting at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Naresh Amatya	SCAG
John Asuncion	SCAG
Rosemary Ayala	SCAG
Nasrin Behmanesh	Parsons
Scott Cohen	West Coast Environmental
Sheryll Del Rosario	SCAG
Kevin Haboian	Parsons
Gary Hansen	City of Westlake Village
Lori Huddleston	MTA/Metro
Shawn Kuk	SCAG
Michael Litschi	OCTA
Betty Mann	SCAG
Brad McAllester	MTA/Metro
Shirley Medina	RCTC
Jonathan Nadler	SCAG
Arnie Sherwood	ITS UC Berkley/SCAG
Carla Walecka	TCA

Via Teleconference:

Arman Behtash	Caltrans District 12
Ron Bloomberg	CH2MHill, Riverside County
Mike Brady	Caltrans Headquarters
Ben Cacatian	Ventura County APCD
Andrew Yoon	Caltrans District 7
Paul Fagan	Caltrans District 8
Eileen Gallo	Caltrans Headquarters
Carol Gomez	South Coast AQMD
Sandy Johnson	Caltrans District 11

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Steve Keal	CH2MHill, Riverside County
Amy Klamo	CH2MHill, Riverside County
Keith Lay	LFA Associates
Tony Louka	Caltrans District 8
Jean Mazur	FHWA
Karina O'Conner	EPA Region 9
Lisa Poe	SANBAG
Dennis Wade	ARB

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Brad McAllister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1 Approve January 30, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Typographical error - 4.1, last sentence of first paragraph and first sentence of the second paragraph, the 2006 STIP Amendment has not been approved by the CTC's until June 7th. Correction - CTC is **California** Transportation Commission not County Transportation Commission.

Page 5, first paragraph, there is a typo which reads that the target date for the start of the 30 day public review is April 5, it should be April **25**, ending on May 24.

Chair McAllister made a MOTION to MOVE the minutes.

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4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTP Update

Naresh Amatya, SCAG, reported on the Administrative Amendment (previously referred to as the "Gap Analysis"), which is intended to bring the 2004 RTP into compliance with the planning requirements of SAFETEA-LU. The Administrative Amendment is scheduled to go to the Regional Council for adoption on May 1, 2007.

The document was released for public comments in December and comments were received from FHWA and Caltrans. FHWA's comments focused primarily on the public participation document aspect, document consultation, and issues related to the environmental mitigation component of planning. Staff has revised the document as appropriate and has also documented the comments as part of the process. Staff also received a comment from Caltrans supporting the Gap Analysis process and its findings and their concurrence with the process.

Mr. Amatya also briefed the Working Group on the potential Amendment to the existing 2004 RTP. This current Amendment to the 2004 RTP addresses the recent development of the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) program, which intends to allocate an additional \$4.5 billion in transportation funding for highway related infrastructure improvements in the State of California. There are a number of projects that are not currently in the plan or need to be amended in terms of schedule, scope, cost, etc. Staff is preparing an Amendment to the 2004 RTP in order to incorporate the changes that are going to result from the authorization of the projects. Staff is working to complete and submit the Amendment to the federal agencies prior to July 1, 2007.

The TCWG will be kept apprised of this process.

4.2 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, discussed the preparation of Draft Administrative Amendment to the 2006 RTIP per SAFETEA-LU ("Gap Analysis"). The RTIP is required to be compliant with SAFETEA-LU by July 1, 2007. Should the RTIP fail to meet SAFETEA-LU requirements by July 1, 2007,

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there will be severe amendment restrictions to the RTIP which will lead to delays in project delivery. In response to these concerns and to ensure compliance with the SAFETEA-LU requirements by the statutory deadline of July 1, 2007, a Draft Administrative Amendment was deemed necessary so that the RTIP Amendment process may continue without disruption. The Draft Administrative Amendment will address any deficiencies in the RTIP to ensure compliance with SAFETEA-LU requirements.

This Draft Administrative Amendment reaffirms the 2006 RTIP transportation conformity analysis. There are no changes to the required conformity components; there are also no changes to the scope, cost, or delivery schedule for any of the projects or programs identified in the current TIP. All amendments to the 2006 RTIP since its adoption have demonstrated financial constraint to the financial plan and all future amendments will continue to do so.

The Draft Administrative Amendment is going to be considered by SCAG's Transportation & Communications Committee, TCC, on March 1. Staff recommends that the TCC approve the release of the Administrative Amendment to the 2006 RTIP for a 30-day public comment period and adoption by Regional Council subsequent to the successful conclusion of the comment period. Upon adoption of the final Administrative Amendment to the 2006 RTIP by the Regional Council, staff will forward it to the FHWA/FTA for certification, which is anticipated to take place prior to the established statutory deadline of July 1, 2007.

4.3 TCM Update: Caltrans TCM Substitution Report

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, described the public review process for the TCM substitution, including an update on the Caltrans TCM substitution that involved going from a full-time HOV to part-time on the last 8 miles of a segment in Riverside County. There was a request from the South Coast AQMD to extend the comment period. Staff extended the comment period until February 26 and has received no additional comments. The report is scheduled to be heard by the Regional Council on March 1.

Jean Mazur, AQMD, asked when the substitute measures would be implemented. Mr. Nadler responded that one substitution was scheduled for

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July and the other was likely to occur prior to that. Page 5 of the Staff Report reflects that the Projects are expected to be operational by mid-2007.

4.4 AQMP Update

Carol Gomez, South Coast AQMD, informed the Working Group that there was a meeting between upper management and staff from AQMD and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in Sacramento, which was intended to resolve certain issues. Ms. Gomez did not have the details of the meeting. AQMD plans to release the modifications to the Draft 2007 AQMP on its website by the end of the week. The public workshops will be held March 13 and 15 in the four counties.

4.5 Review of Qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis

Jean Mazur, inquired if the project sponsor had been able to find an existing monitor that would be representative of the proposed project.

Andrew Yoon, Caltrans District 7, responded on behalf of the project sponsor, the Port of Long Beach. Mr. Yoon verified that the corridor is near the port, which has high heavy-duty diesel truck traffic, such that there are not many monitoring stations that are representative. The monitor used in the analysis is in north Long Beach, which is the most representative. There are a couple of MATES monitoring stations in Wilmington and on Pacific Coast Highway, which were installed for the short-term MATES study, limiting the amount of historical data available.

Mr. Nadler stated that the ports have started, or will start, to do their own air quality monitoring. Mr. Nadler also pointed out that since there would generally not be a perfect monitoring station, we still need to move forward with the analysis and conclusions using the best available data. Mr. Nadler stated that the project sponsor should include additional data if available and relevant. It is assumed that such data will not change the conclusions. Otherwise, the TCWG would need to review once again.

The TCWG concluded that they would conditionally approve the current draft analysis subject to EPA and FHWA concurrence which would presumably take place at a sub-group meeting next week. Staff will set the date and setup a conference call for those who wish to participate.

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4.6 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

The TCWG considered seven interagency review forms to determine whether the projects were of air quality concern and required a qualitative PM Hot Spot analysis. The review concluded the following:

SBD20040826 and SBD200619: Not a POAQC, hot spot analysis not required

SBD200157: Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required

RIV990701: Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required

RIV46460: Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required

SBD200048: Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required

LA0B7234: Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required

LA960142: Not a POAQC - hot spot analysis not required

4.7 PM Project Level Screening

Mr. Nadler stated that there was recently a Sub-group meeting where project level screening was discussed. The Sub-group is still working on developing the screening and will eventually bring it forward to the TCWG to get some consensus and move on from there. Assuming that something can be worked out in the next month or two it may be reviewed at the next Statewide Conformity Working Group meeting.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

No new items to report.

6.0 INFORMATION SHARING

6.1 1-hr Ozone Standard Court Decision

Mr. Nadler said that Staff had added this item to the agenda at the request of South Coast AQMD but he had nothing to report beyond the update given at last month's meeting, which is reflected in the minutes. Karina O'Conner, EPA, stated that EPA has received an extension from the Court until May 22 to respond to the decision and probably will not have additional information.

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The next Statewide Conformity Working Group meeting will probably be held on May 23 at AQMD Headquarters in Diamond Bar.

Ventura County Air Pollution Control District is scheduled to send out notices release of its 2007 Draft AQMP for the 8-hr Ozone standard this week.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Brad McAllester, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:15 p.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.